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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 91 LCM-160

Date: September 4, 1991

Division: Income Maintenance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Providing Food Stamp Program Participation Information to
Local School Authorities

ATTACHMENTS: None

Per the Child Nutrition and WIC Amendments of 1989 (P.L. 101-147) and Section II (e), paragraph 8 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, local districts are permitted to disclose Food Stamp Program participation information to school authorities. This will allow schools to certify any child as eligible for free or reduced price school meals based on the child's status as a member of a household receiving food stamps or ADC. The intent of the legislation is to reduce the eligibility process for the School Meals Program and at the same time to increase the number of eligible children participating in the program.

As a part of a cooperative effort with the NYS Department of Education, this Department will be mailing a flash letter in September to all upstate food stamp households identified as having a household member between the age of 3 and 21 years. The text on the front of the letter will advise the household that:

- o The children (full name and DOB) listed on the back are approved to receive free lunch and/or breakfast and/or free milk, if they attend a school that participates in these programs.
- o To receive this benefit, they are to take or send the letter to the school which the child attends. If more than one school is involved it becomes the school's responsibility to either make copies of the letter for the household or to notify other applicable schools.
- o If the letter is not returned to the school, they must fill out the free and reduced price application in order for the children to receive free meals or free milk.

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Local social services districts should be prepared, however, to receive a few student names from school authorities for verification during the school year. Such requests should be handled as expeditiously as possible.

Questions concerning this memorandum should be directed to your district's Food Stamp Representative at 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-9225.

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance